

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00965 01 OF 02 181229Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 073049

R 181105Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9747

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 0965

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, US

SUBJECT: FUTURE SUDAN/USG RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 0867

BEGIN SUMMARY: WHILE SUDANESE CLEARLY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN READY FOR MORE HELP FROM US, RECENT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE OF DE FACTO FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED NOTED BELOW, SUGGEST THAT PRESENT ATMOSPHERE PARTICULARLY PROPITIOUS FOR PROMPT CONSIDERATION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED IN EMBASSY'S A-29 OF APRIL 7. I URGE THAT FAVORABLE ACTION BE TAKEN IN ORDER BEGIN GETTING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS HERE BACK IN GEAR. ADDITIONALLY, SINCE AHMED EXPRESSED DESIRE REVIEW SUBJECT IN GREATER DETAIL SHORTLY, I WOULD APURECIATE DEPT'S PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE SOONEST THOUGH I RECOGNIZE ANY FORMAL DECISIONS WILL TAKE TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING GENRAL DISCUSSION WITH MINSTATE JAMAL MUHAMMED AHMED APRIL 17, I HAD MOST EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION GOS/USG RELATIONS SINCE MY RETURN LAST NOVEMBER. DISCUSSION WAS KICKED OXE BY MY REFERENCE TO AHMED'S HANDLING OF QUESTIONS IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY WEEK AGO ON SUDAN/USG RELATIONS (REFTEL). AHMED IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED THAT WHOLE THING HAD BEEN SURPIRSE TO HIM. HE HAD ONLY BEEN GIVEN NOTICE OF THE FIRST QUESTION, NAMELY SIZE SUDANESE REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON, HAD PROVIDED ANODYNE REPLY AND SAT DOWN.

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00965 01 OF 02 181229Z

SEVERAL SUPPLEMNTARY QUESTIONS THEN HAD BEEN ASKED

REFLECTING GENERAL INTEREST ON PART PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
IN DEVELOPING MORE TANGIBLE US SUPPORT. HE CLAIMED
MEMBERS HAD LATER CONGRATULATED HIM ON FORTHCOMING
NATURE HIS REMARKS.

2. I SAID EXCHANGES SEEMED GENERALLY UNEXCEPTIONABLE
BUT REMINDED AHMED THERE HAD BEEN NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE
ON EITHER SIDE TO WHAT WAS, IN FACT, A WATERSHED IN OUR
BILATERAL RELATIONS, NAMELY UNFORTUNATE GOS DECISION OF
LAST JUNE RE KHARTOUM MURDERERS. THIS HAD OBVIOUSLY
REVERSED FAVORABLE TREND IN ASSISTANCE INITIATED AFTER
HELPFUL GOS DECISION, IN ADVANCE OTHER ARAB STATES
IN 1972, TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH US. HIS EMPHASIS ON
WORLD-WIDE USG INABILITY SUSTAIN SAME LEVELS FOREIGN
ASSISTANCE AS HAD BEEN TRUE DECADE AGO, HOWEVER,
ALL TOO TRUE. RE HIS ASSURANCE TO ASSEMBLY THAT BILATERAL
CONTACTS WERE PROCEEDING, I TOLD HIM I KNEW OF NONE.

3. AHMED REPLIED SOMEWHAT LAMELY THAT THIS REFERENCE
HAD BEEN DESIGNED HEAD OFF FURTHER PROBINGS. CHOOSING
HIS WORDS CAREFULLY, HE THEN SAID THAT HE--OR PERHAPS PRESIDENT
NIMEIRI--WOULD HAVE TO TALK WITH ME AT GREATER LENGTH
REGARDING FUTURE GOS/USG ECONOMIC/CULTURAL RELATIONS
AND HOW TO HANDLE SUCH EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ON
PART SUDANESE QUESTIONERS IN FUTURE. HE WONDERED IF THIS
WOULD BE USEFUL.

4. I STRESSED THAT OUR PRESENT POLICY WAS FIRM THOUGH NO
DOUBT IT WOULD NOT ENDURE UNTIL THE END OF TIME. AS HE KNEW,
CONGRESS ANWWAMERICAN PEOPLE HAD BEEN DEEPLY UPSET BY
SUDANESE ACTION LAST JUNE WHICH HAD NOT BEEN TRUE TO FINE
TRADITIONS SUDANESE PEOPLE. EMPHASIZING I WAS WITHOUT
INSTRUCTIONS, I SAID WOULD CERTAINLY BE GLAD TO MEET WITH
THE PRESIDENT OR WITH HIM AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONS AND WOULD REPORT FAITHFULLY WHATEVER I WAS TOLD.
BUT, SINCE ANY FUNDS FOR USG OPERATIONS IN SUDAN HAD IN FIRST
INSTANCE TO ORIGINATE WITH CONGRESS, IT WOULD BE MATTER
FOR WASHINGTON DETERMINATION IN LIGHT OF ALL CIRCUMSTANCES
IF, AND WHEN, SOME NEW DEPARTURE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS
MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATED. SUDANESE COULD NEVERTHELESS ALWAYS RAISE
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PAGE 03 KHARTO 00965 01 OF 02 181229Z

QUESTION IF THEY DID NOT MIND RISKING REBUFF. AND IT WAS RIGHT
TO BEAR IN MIND THAT EVEN IF EVENTS OF 73-74 RE KHARTOUM
MURDERS HAD NOT OCCURRED, IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN
POSSIBLE FOR US TO ASSIST SUDAN TO SAME EXTENT AS HAD BEEN
TRUE DECADE AGO. FOREIGN AID WAS HAVING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT
TIME IN CONGRES AND ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS WERE REGULARLY AND
SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE MISTAKE
FOR ANY COUNTRY TO ASSESS CORDIALITY OF ITS RELATIONS WITH

USG ON BASIS COMPARISON DOLLAR AID IT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY
RECEIVE WITH LEVEL OF EARLY SIXTIES. AHHID SAID HE
UNDERSTOOD BUT HOPED SOME BENEFICIAL CONTACTS COULD BE
WORKED OUT, IF ONLY WITH PRIVATE FOUNDATITSS. HE INDICATED
HE WOULD CONSIDER WHAT FURTHER ACTION TO TAKE AND WOULD BE
IN TOUCH WITH ME.

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00965 02 OF 02 181226Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 073020

R 181105Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9748

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 0965

EXDIS

5. COMMENT: AHMED CLEARLY EXPECTED ME RAISE SUBJECT
HIS PARLIAMENTARY INTERPELLATION, BUT EQUALLY CLEARLY DID
NOT SEEM PAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC IN MIND. HE IS,
OF COURSE, OPERATING ON NEW AND UNCERTAIN GROUND WITHOUT
A FOREIGN MINISTER AND MAY BE SOMEWHAT UNSURE AS TO
EXACTLY WHAT NIMEIRI'S WISHES MAY BE. BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR
THAT HE IS GROPING TOWARD SOME MODUS OPERANDI FOR
GETTING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ONCE MORE IN GEAR. WHILE
AHMED CLEARLY SOUGHT IN HIS ASSEMBLY REPLIES TO AVOID EM-
BARRASSING GOS BY INDICATING SOME AID HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING
SINCE '67 AND BILATERAL CONTACTS CONTINUING, HIS REMARKS
CERTAINLY ARE NOT EMBARRASSING TO US.

6. AS TO OUR POLICY ITSELF, MY OWN RECOMMENDATION THAT THE
TIME HAS COME TO INSTITUTE A PROGRAM OF NORMALIZATION IN OUR
RELATIONSHIPS WAS CONTAINED IN EMBASSY'S A-29 OF APRIL 7.
SUBSEQUENT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION AND AHMED'S
COMMENTS TO ME SERVE TO UNDERLINE THAT ANY SEEDS WE MAY NOW
DECIDE PLANT IN THE INTEREST OF FOSTERING BROADER AND MORE
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN FUTURE WILL FALL ON
FERTILE SOIL. I THEREFORE URGE THAT PROMPT CONSIDERA-
TION BE GIVEN TO PROPOSALS IN OUR A-29 SO THAT WE MAY TAKE

ADVANTAGE OF--AND GRADUALLY FOSTER--THE PRESENT FAVORABLE
ATMOSPHERE. THIS CONNECTION, NIMEIRI'S RECENT PUBLIC RE-
EMPHASIS ON NEED ENCOURAGE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, AVOID
FURTHER NATIONALIZATIONS AND REMAIN VIGILANT AGAINST
COMMUNIST MACHINATIONS (KHARTOUM 0936) -- WHILE SELF-
SERVING -- SERVES US TOO. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS TO
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00965 02 OF 02 181226Z

LINE I SHOULD TAKE WITH AHMED (OR CONCEIVABLY NIMEIRI)
SHOULD HE FOLLOW UP WITH SUMMONS FOR MORE DETAILED
REVIEW OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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